

Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph after the title and before the first paragraph:

~~THIS APPLICATION IS A U.S. NATIONAL PHASE APPLICATION OF PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PCT/JP00/02679.~~

Please add the following new paragraph after the title and before the first paragraph:

THIS APPLICATION IS A CONTINUATION OF U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/720,146 FILED MARCH 9, 2001, WHICH IS A U.S. NATIONAL PHASE APPLICATION OF PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PCT/JP00/02679.